

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An interactive character associated with a metered dose inhaler that includes a medication dispensing canister and a canister holder, the interactive character comprising:

a base portion adapted to be coupled to a canister such that actuation of the canister to dispense a medication requires providing an actuating force on the base portion;

an interactive element coupled to the base portion that activates in a human perceivable manner, the interactive element having an activated state and a deactivated state, wherein the interactive element is in the activated state in response to an actuating force applied to the base, and wherein the interactive element returns to the same deactivated state when the actuating force is removed from the base; and

actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion to actuate the canister.

2. (Original) The interactive character according to claim 1, wherein the interactive element is a mechanical element that moves relative to the base portion, and wherein the actuating means comprises a mechanical linkage coupled to the mechanical element.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The interactive character according to claim 1, wherein the interactive element is a light that changes from ~~an~~the deactivated state in which light is not produced to ~~an~~the activated state in which light is produced responsive to actuation by the actuating means.

5. (Original) The interactive character according to claim 1, wherein the interactive element is a sound generating element that changes from ~~at~~the deactivated state in which no sound is produced to ~~the~~an activated state in which sound is produced responsive to actuation by the actuating means.

6. (Original) The interactive character according to claim 1, further comprising a spacer coupled to the second end of the holder.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The interactive character according to claim 1, wherein the actuating means comprises a pushrod ~~slideably~~slidably mounted within the base portion, wherein the pushrod includes a first end adapted to engage the canister and a second end adapted to engage a first portion of the interactive element.

9. (Currently Amended) An aerosol medication delivery system comprising:

1) a canister having a first end and a second end, wherein the canister is adapted to dispense a medicine from the first end;

2) a canister holder adapted to be coupled to the canister, wherein the canister is moveable relative to the canister holder between a first position to a second position, and wherein a medicine is dispensed from the canister responsive to the canister being the second position;
and

3) an interactive character comprising:

a) a base portion coupled to the second end of the canister such that movement of the canister to the second position is accomplished by applying an actuating force on the base portion,

b) an interactive element coupled to the base portion that actuates in a human perceivable manner, the interactive element having an activated state and a

deactivated state, wherein the interactive element is in the activated state in response to an actuating force applied to the base, and wherein the interactive element returns to the same deactivated state when the actuating force is removed from the base; and

c) actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the interactive element is a mechanical element that moves relative to the base portion, and wherein the actuating means comprises a mechanical linkage coupled to the mechanical element.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the interactive element is a light that changes from an deactivated state in which light is not produced to an activated state in which light is produced responsive to actuation by the actuating means.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the interactive element is a sound generating element that changes from a deactivated state in which no sound is produced to an activated state in which sound is produced responsive to actuation by the actuating means.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 9, further comprising a spacer coupled to the second end of the holder.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method using an aerosol medication delivery system comprising:

coupling a base portion of an interactive character to a canister in a metered dose inhaler;

applying an actuating force on the base portion; ~~and~~

automatically activating an interactive element coupled to the base portion in a human perceivable manner responsive to the application of the actuating force on the base portion such that the interactive element is in an activated state;

removing the actuating force from the base portion; and

automatically deactivating the interactive element such that the interactive element returns to the same deactivated state.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein automatically activating the interactive element comprises moving a mechanical element relative to the base portion by means of a mechanical linkage having a first end operatively coupled to the canister and a second end operatively coupled to the mechanical element.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein automatically activating the interactive element comprises changing a light from ~~an~~ the deactivated state in which light is not produced to ~~an~~ the activated state in which light is produced.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein automatically activating the interactive element comprises changing a sound generating element from ~~a~~ the deactivated state in which no sound is produced to ~~an~~ the activated state in which sound is produced.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A device associated with a metered dose inhaler that includes a medication dispensing canister and a canister holder, the canister containing medication, the device comprising:

a base portion adapted to be coupled to a canister such that actuation of the canister to dispense a medication requires providing an actuating force on the base portion;

an interactive element coupled to the base portion that activates in a human perceivable manner, the interactive element having an activated state to indicate when medication is being delivered and a deactivated state to indicate when no medication is being delivered; and

actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion to actuate the canister.

24. (New) A device comprising:

a base portion adapted to be coupled to a canister such that actuation of the canister to dispense a medication requires providing an actuating force on the base portion;

an interactive element coupled to the base portion that actuates in a human perceivable manner, the interactive element having an activated state and a deactivated state, wherein the interactive element is in the activated state in response to an actuating force applied to the base, and wherein the interactive element returns to the same deactivated state when the actuating force is removed from the base; and

actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion.

25. (New) An aerosol medication delivery system comprising:

1) a canister having a first end and a second end, wherein the canister is adapted to dispense a medicine from the first end;

2) a canister holder adapted to be coupled to the canister, wherein the canister is moveable relative to the canister holder between a first position to a second position, and wherein a medicine is dispensed from the canister responsive to the canister being the second position; and

3) a device comprising:

a) a base portion coupled to the second end of the canister such that movement of the canister to the second position is accomplished by applying an actuating force on the base portion,

b) an interactive element coupled to the base portion that actuates in a human perceivable manner, the interactive element having an activated state and a deactivated state, wherein the interactive element is in the activated state in response to an actuating force applied to the base, and wherein the interactive element returns to the same deactivated state when the actuating force is removed from the base, and

c) actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion.

26. (New) The aerosol medication delivery system as recited in claim 25 wherein the second position corresponds to the activated state and wherein the first position corresponds to the deactivated state.

27. (New) An interactive character associated with a metered dose inhaler that includes a medication dispensing canister and a canister holder, the interactive character comprising:

a base portion adapted to be coupled to a canister such that actuation of the canister to dispense a medication requires providing an actuating force on the base portion;

an interactive element coupled to the base portion that activates in a human perceivable manner;

actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion to actuate the canister;

wherein the base portion defines a first anatomical feature of the interactive character;

wherein the mechanical element defines a second anatomical feature of the interactive character;

wherein the interactive element is a mechanical element that moves relative to the base portion; and

wherein the actuating means comprises a mechanical linkage coupled to the mechanical element.

28. (New) An interactive character associated with a metered dose inhaler that includes a medication dispensing canister and a canister holder, the interactive character comprising:

a base portion adapted to be coupled to a canister such that actuation of the canister to dispense a medication requires providing an actuating force on the base portion;

an interactive element coupled to the base portion that activates in a human perceivable manner;

actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion to actuate the canister; and

wherein the base portion further comprises a pair of grasping members disposed on the base portion adapted to receive the actuating force.

29. (New) An aerosol medication delivery system comprising:

1) a canister having a first end and a second end, wherein the canister is adapted to dispense a medicine from the first end;

2) a canister holder adapted to be coupled to the canister, wherein the canister is moveable relative to the canister holder between a first position to a second position, and wherein a medicine is dispensed from the canister responsive to the canister being the second position; and

3) an interactive character comprising:

a) a base portion coupled to the second end of the canister such that movement of the canister to the second position is accomplished by applying an actuating force on the base portion,

b) an interactive element coupled to the base portion that actuates in a human perceivable manner, and

c) actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion,

wherein the interactive element is a mechanical element that moves relative to the base portion,

wherein the actuating means comprises a mechanical linkage coupled to the mechanical element,

wherein the base portion defines a first anatomical feature of the interactive character, and

wherein the mechanical element defines a second anatomical feature of the interactive character.

30. (New) An aerosol medication delivery system comprising:

1) a canister having a first end and a second end, wherein the canister is adapted to dispense a medicine from the first end;

2) a canister holder adapted to be coupled to the canister, wherein the canister is moveable relative to the canister holder between a first position to a second position, and wherein a medicine is dispensed from the canister responsive to the canister being the second position; and

3) an interactive character comprising:

a) a base portion coupled to the second end of the canister such that movement of the canister to the second position is accomplished by applying an actuating force on the base portion,

b) an interactive element coupled to the base portion that actuates in a human perceivable manner, and

c) actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion, and

wherein the base portion further comprises a pair of grasping members disposed on the base portion adapted to receive the actuating force.

31. (New) An aerosol medication delivery system comprising:

1) a canister having a first end and a second end, wherein the canister is adapted to dispense a medicine from the first end;

2) a canister holder adapted to be coupled to the canister, wherein the canister is moveable relative to the canister holder between a first position to a second position, and wherein a medicine is dispensed from the canister responsive to the canister being the second position; and

3) an interactive character comprising:

a) a base portion coupled to the second end of the canister such that movement of the canister to the second position is accomplished by applying an actuating force on the base portion,

b) an interactive element coupled to the base portion that actuates in a human perceivable manner,

c) actuating means for actuating the interactive element responsive to the actuating force being applied to the base portion,

wherein the base portion further comprises a pair of grasping members disposed on the base portion adapted to receive the actuating force, and

wherein the actuating means comprises a pushrod slidably mounted within the base portion,

wherein the pushrod includes a first end adapted to engage the canister and a second end adapted to engage a first portion of the interactive element.

32. (New) A method using an aerosol medication delivery system comprising:
coupling a base portion of an interactive character to a canister in a metered dose inhaler;

applying an actuating force on the base portion;

automatically activating an interactive element coupled to the base portion in a human perceivable manner responsive to the application of the actuating force on the base portion;

wherein automatically activating the interactive element comprises moving a mechanical element relative to the base portion by means of a mechanical linkage having a first end operatively coupled to the canister and a second end operatively coupled to the mechanical element; and

wherein the base portion defines a first anatomical feature of the interactive character; and

wherein the mechanical element defines a second anatomical feature of the interactive character.

33. (New) A method using an aerosol medication delivery system comprising:
coupling a base portion of an interactive character to a canister in a metered dose inhaler;

applying an actuating force on the base portion;

automatically activating an interactive element coupled to the base portion in a human perceivable manner responsive to the application of the actuating force on the base portion; and

wherein applying an actuating force on the base portion comprises applying the actuating force on a pair of grasping members disposed on the base portion.